

REMARKS

The Office Action indicates allowability of independent claims 45 and 67. Claim 47 was allowed in the prior Office Action and was indicated in the pending Office Action to be only objected to and to have allowable subject matter. It is believed that claim 47 was properly meant to be listed as an allowable independent claim as it was already rewritten in the Applicant's last response.

All independent claims that were rejected have been canceled. All dependent claims that were subject to §112 rejections or which were objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) have been canceled (except claim 46 for which the rejection that it is duplicative with claim 54 is rendered moot by canceling claim 54).

Objected to claim 55 was indicated to have allowable subject matter and has been rewritten as an independent claim including all intervening limitations.

All other claims, dependent claims 39, 42-44, 46, 48, 50-53, 56-60, 63-65, 68-71 and 73 either previously depended from an allowable claim or have been amended to now depend from a claim that was indicated to be allowable.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are either independent claims for which allowable subject matter was previously indicated or which depend from such independent claim.

Rejected Claims

A number of claims stand in condition of non-final rejections under §101, §112, §102 and/or §103. Though the Applicant disagrees with the pending rejections, in order to expedite the issuance of the claims which are not rejected, the rejected claims have been canceled so as to leave only allowable subject matter. The canceled claims shall be pursued through prosecution

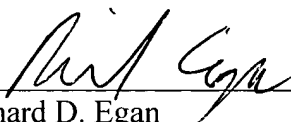
of a continuation application of this or related application(s). The Applicant does not disclaim the scope of any of the canceled claims but rather explicitly provides notice of intention to continue prosecution of such claims. Thus to facilitate compact prosecution and to expedite the issuance of a patent, Applicant with this paper amends the claims without prejudice and without conceding that the pending rejections are proper. Further, Applicant makes no disclaimer that the particular limitations recited by the objected-to claims of this application, or the amendments submitted herewith, are required to distinguish the claims over the cited references. However, to the extent that any such disclaimer is construed to exist, Applicant hereby expressly rescinds such disclaimer and reserves the right to pursue the rejected and/or other claims in follow-on and/or other applications and to present arguments with respect to such claims in such applications.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and Notice of Allowance are courteously solicited.

Should any fees under 37 CFR 1.16-1.21 be required for any reason relating to the enclosed materials, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct such fees from Deposit Account No. 10-1205. The examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the phone number indicated below with any questions or comments, or to otherwise facilitate expeditious and compact prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,



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